

THE AMBASSADOR'S SPECIAL SELF HELP PROGRAM

In 1964 an experimental and modest self-help program began in Togo to assist communities with development projects. This program soon grew to cover the entire continent and become one of the most visible and successful assistance programs in Africa. The Ambassador's Self-Help Program is a grass-roots assistance program that allows U.S. Embassy of Togo to provide financial assistance to small, community-based development projects.

What projects are eligible for funding?

- The project must be initiated by the community and should benefit the community by increasing income or improving living conditions. If the project is designed to generate income, it must be truly community-based.
- The project should be sustainable and not require continued support after the one-time contribution from the Self-Help Program.
- The community must make substantial contributions to the project in money or in kind (donated land, volunteer time, labor, sand, gravel, water, medical equipment for health clinic, etc.).
- All projects must be completed in one year.

How much are the grants?

The maximum grant is \$US5, 000, converted to CFA at the prevailing exchange rate. Projects typically funded are small, in the range of US\$1,000 to \$US4, 000.

How are projects selected?

The Ambassador's Special Self-Help Committee meets once a year to decide on funding. The committee aims to have a variety of projects, a wide geographical distribution and prioritize income generating activity. Project funding is generally decided in August of each year.

How does an organization apply?

Information and Application forms are available at the U.S. Embassy, through the Development Office. They may be requested by mail or in person. You may also [click here \(link to forms\)](#) to pick the forms online. The deadline for submission of applications for every fiscal year is June 30 of every ensuing year. Applications can be submitted at any time before that date to the Development Office at the Embassy or by Post.

When is the application submission period?

Applications are accepted through June 30th yearly to be considered for that years funding. Please send applications to: **U.S. Embassy, Development Office, B.P. 852, Lomé-Togo.**

How can you discuss with the program coordinator?

By previous arrangement with the Self Help Coordinator, you are invited to participate to the informational session regarding any questions you may have, like what does not qualify for a Self-Help grant, on the last Tuesday of the each month from 2pm – 4pm. It is imperative that you have made an appointment beforehand via email: sshlome@state.gov or telephone: **261 54 70**. Otherwise you will not be on the access list and will not be allowed to enter the U.S. Embassy compound.

Available hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 – 12:00